

Digital Arizona Council (DAC)
Summary of Minutes - Public Meeting
Thursday, November 8, 2012

DAC Voting Members Present

- Aaron Sandeen, State CIO & Deputy Director, ADOA-ASET (Chairman)
- Robert Burns, Former Arizona State Senator
- Teri Drew, NACOG (by remote connection)
- Jodie Filardo, Town of Clarkdale (by remote connection)
- Michael Keeling, Data-Site Consortium, Inc.
- Mark Masterson, Arizona Department of Education (*designee for John Huppenthal*)
- Tom McCloud, Intel Corporation (by remote connection)
- Kenneth McMahon, CenturyLink, Inc.
- Michele Norin, The University of Arizona (by remote connection)
- Floyd Roehrich, Arizona Department of Transportation (*designee for Director John Halikowski*)
- Leroy Shingoitewa, Hopi Tribe
- Rod Stevens, Town of Pinetop-Lakeside (*designee for Kelly Udall*)
- Hyman Sukiennik, Cox Communications
- Craig Sullivan, County Supervisors Association of AZ
- Daman Wood, Airband (by remote connection)
- Emerson Yearwood, Cable One, Inc.

DAC Voting Members Absent

- Michael Bernstein, Simply Bits, LLC
- Steve Metts, Valley Telecom Group
- Dr. Alan Pitt, Barrow Neurological Institute
- Steven Zylstra, Arizona Technology Council

Arizona Strategic Enterprise Technology (ASET) Office Attendees

- Michael Golden, Director, Broadband Planning, ADOA-ASET
- Galen Updike, Broadband Development Manager, ADOA-ASET
- Jeffrey Crane, Project Manager, ADOA-ASET

Meeting Presenters

- Aaron Sandeen, State CIO & Deputy Director, ADOA-ASET
- Michele Norin, CIO, The University of Arizona
- Brad Zerbe, VP, ATI Institute
- Michael Golden, Director, Broadband Planning, ADOA-ASET

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:08 PM by Chairman Aaron Sandeen, State CIO and Deputy Director ADOA-ASET. A silent roll call was taken by Mr. Jeffrey Crane, ASET Project Manager, while Council members introduced themselves. A quorum of the DAC was present.

A Broadband Perspective

Presenter: Aaron Sandeen, State CIO & Deputy Director, ADOA-ASET

Information and Discussion Item

Mr. Sandeen discussed the critical importance of proper prior planning in our efforts to facilitate “Better Internet” to all of Arizona. If we as a group fail to properly plan and implement, then we will likely fail in our efforts. We have developed tools and processes, currently in place, which will facilitate this planning effort. We need to recognize that technology is an amplifier; it is not the end game. We must develop a technology rich environment for the next generation and beyond so our children will have the same opportunities we have had. Mr. Sandeen reiterated his commitment to this effort, and the importance of “Better Internet” as a tool for accomplishing this critical goal.

Strategic Plan Update

Presenter: Michele Norin, CIO, University of Arizona

Presenter: Brad Zerbe, VP, ATI Institute

Information and Discussion Item

Michele Norin introduced the Draft State Strategic Plan. It has been released in three versions, a brief 15 page summary version, a mid-size full-report version, and a full-size expanded and reference version. This will offer readers a choice in the detail and background information they would like to reference. The development team was made up of a diverse set of experts. The plan will continue to be a working document which will be modified and edited over time. Mr. Zerbe discussed several key elements of the plan, including the need of schools for high speed internet connection of at least 6 mbps per student both up and down. Arizona’s average digital connection speeds rank 34th in the nation (compared to Utah who ranks 2nd). One of the goals addressed in the plan is to reduce the cost to construct high speed internet infrastructure by “getting Government out of the way” and facilitating dialogue between providers and users.

DAC Membership Discussion Regarding the State Strategic Plan

Moderator: Aaron Sandeen, State CIO & Deputy Director, ADOA-ASET

Information and Discussion Item

Herein is a brief summary of comments made by members during this discussion session. Note: these are quoted comments but simply summary captures of the general comment theme per individual.

Rod Stevens stated he likes the plan as it is not too technical and is very informative, adding that it is a great place to start in answering the question of what we do for the kids who currently go home and have no available high-speed internet.

Mark Masterson commented that the plan is easy to read and seems to be a good document. He also added, on behalf of Superintendent Huppenthal, that we have much to do in a very short time so we can implement something that reflects what is in the plan. The challenge is speed, we need this ASAP. Only 9% of the districts have the devices that meet the new standards.

Leroy Shingoitewa, in regards to the education recommendations, stated that providing broadband access has not been an emphasis at the individual school level. He asked how the group might cause the state to put sufficient requirements for broadband in the local schools. He added that this needs to be a state-level movement, as providers are not currently able to provide needed capacity in the rural tribal areas. He mentioned that he supports what is mentioned in the plan, and added that it needs to ensure that these efforts apply to the rural areas. Also posed the question, how do we assist providers in supplying necessary infrastructure?

Aaron Sandeen asked how we might better partner with the tribes with respect to ROW, easements, etc.

Mr. Shingoitewa answered that the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona would be a good opportunity for him and Aaron Sandeen to present the plan.

Aaron Sandeen added, until there is a real problem, as seen from the point of view of the citizens of the state, there **is** no problem. This is just now being raised as a public problem on a statewide basis. We need a plan to meet this problem as it manifests itself in the rural areas.

Floyd Roehrich shared comments regarding the language about barriers, permits and others. He stated that ADOT continues to work under requirements, both state and federal, to adhere to permitting regulations. The plan should include references to the regulatory laws we need to comply with. The two highways for the price of one statement is a bit misleading. The plan is a strategic vision rather than a plan.

Aaron Sandeen agreed with Mr. Roehrich in that the DAC owes it to the community to be accurate. We need prioritization to make it more useful. We don't want a plan for conduit to nowhere. We are looking at what the right business models are, and are in the process of tweaking that model.

Michele Norin stated in regards to the details and tactics in the plan, the task group concluded early-on that this was not to be an implementation plan. We need agreement first on the high level directions and strategies in order to move forward with the details.

Digital Arizona Update

Presenter: Michael Golden, Director, Broadband Planning, ADOA-ASET

Information and Discussion Item

Mr. Golden shared a high level overview of the Digital Arizona program. As the strategic plan is finalized, we will need to begin work on a tactical plan. We have had interest from companies who may like to participate in the SB1402 implementation of conduit install process. Additionally, discussions have commenced with power companies and railroads regarding usage of their ROW. We are launching a speed test and survey which will provide more factual data on what is actually being experienced in AZ regarding broadband.

Adjournment

The meeting officially adjourned prior to 4:00 PM.

Minutes of the Digital Arizona Council are recorded. Recorded minutes are maintained by the Arizona Strategic Enterprise Technology Office. Public access and review of DAC minutes are available by appointment Monday through Friday during normal business hours. Please contact the ASET office at 602-542-2250 to arrange for an audio of the recorded proceedings.